

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 CA-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL BELEM PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, CPRS, BR, FG

SUBJECT: BRAZIL/U.S. FISHERIES PROBLEMS

REF: (A) BRASILIA 4766, (B) BELEM 161, (C) YELLMAN/
JOHNSON/MARSHALL TELECON OF JUNE 23, 1978

1. AFTER RECEIPT REFT (A), DEPARTMENT CONTACTED OWNERS
OF VESSELS OPERATING IN FRENCH GUIANA/BRAZIL AREA. THEY
DO NOT DENY THAT A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF U.S. VESSELS
BASED IN CAYENNE MAY HAVE BEEN SHRIMPING IN BRAZILIAN
ZONE, ALTHOUGH THEY MAINTAIN THAT NUMBERS COULD NOT HAVE
EXCEEDED 30 AT ANY ONE TIME. OWNERS HAVE INSTRUCTED
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THEIR CAYENNE FLEET MANAGERS TO FORBID INDIVIDUAL VESSEL
CAPTAINS IN EXPLICIT TERMS FROM ENTERING FORMER AGREEMENT
AREA. HOWEVER, SINCE CREWS ARE PAID ON PRODUCTION,
SHRIMP ARE AVAILABLE AND FAT IN BRAZILIAN AREA, AND
SHRIMP CREWS ARE NOTORIOUS FOR INDEPENDENCE AND LACK OF
DISCIPLINE, CAPTAINS HAVE DISREGARDED INSTRUCTIONS WITH
THE PREDICTABLE RESULTS. VESSEL OWNERS UNDERSTAND

DANGERS OF ESCALATING DIFFICULTIES THAT WILL RESULT FROM FUTURE SEIZURES, AND DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THEIR CONCERN AND EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE PROBLEM ARE SINCERE.

2. DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED ABOUT FIVE U.S. VESSELS STILL AT BELEM AS RESULT OF PAST GROUP OF SEIZURES, AND HAS BEEN IN TELEPHONE CONTACT WITH AMCONSUL BELEM TO KEEP OWNERS ADVISED OF PROGRESS. CLEARLY, THE RULES OF THE GAME HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO CHANGE, AND MORE SERIOUS PROBLEMS CAN BE ANTICIPATED IF CURRENT RASH OF SEIZURES CONTINUES.

3. AFTER REF (C) TELECON TO DISCUSS LATEST (JUNE 23) SEIZURES OF ANITA KAY, CAYENNE LAURA AND SEVEN SEAS (AND REPORTED PURSUIT OF TRADE WINDS) AND ITAMARATY DISCUSSIONS WITH DCM, DEPARTMENT AGAIN CONTACTED OWNERS AND OBTAINED THEIR COMMITMENT TO CALL ALL VESSELS TO THE DOCK FOR WEEKEND OF SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JUNE 24 AND 25, IN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF FURTHER INCIDENTS, AT LEAST OVER SHORT TERM. OWNERS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT THEY HAVE WITNESSES WHO WILL ATTEST THAT VESSELS APPREHENDED JUNE 23 WERE IN POSITION 51 DEGREES 40 MINUTES WEST BY 4 DEGREES 50 MINUTES NORTH, NEAR A GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURE KNOWN AS QUOTE THE ROCK UNQUOTE WHICH IS CONSIDERABLY NORTH OF CAPE ORANGE. THEY CLAIM THAT BRAZILIAN ENFORCEMENT VESSEL, AT LEAST IN THIS LATEST INSTANCE, CAME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NORTH INTO FRENCH GUIANA ZONE TO EFFECT SEIZURES. SHRIMPERS HAVE SAID THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO ENLIST ASSISTANCE OF FRENCH TO STATION A PATROL VESSEL IN THE AREA OF THE LINE TO TRY TO PROVE THEIR POINT. MEANWHILE, EMBASSY MAY INFORM BRAZILIAN FONMIN OF INDUSTRY PROMISE TO CALL VESSELS TO THE DOCK TO DEFUSE CURRENT DELICATE SITUATION. VANCE

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